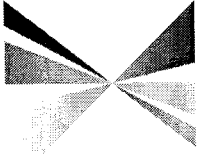


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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**Ventura County Transportation Commission:**  
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

559-5124/45

## MEETING OF THE

# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

**Monday, June 26, 2006  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## SCAG Offices

**818 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**San Bernardino Conference Room**

**Los Angeles, California 90017**

**213.236.1800**

## VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION

**SCAG, Riverside Office**

**3600 Lime Street, Suite 216**

**Riverside, CA 92501**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Deby Salcido at 213.236.1993 or [salcido@scag.ca.gov](mailto:salcido@scag.ca.gov)

Agenda and minutes are available on the web at:  
[www.scag.ca.gov/rcp](http://www.scag.ca.gov/rcp)

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# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

## AGENDA

June 26, 2006

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER Honorable Pam O'Connor, Chair
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.
- 3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS
- 4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR
- 4.1 Minutes of May 22, 2006 01
- 5.0 ACTION ITEMS
- 6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 6.1 Water Chapter Attachment Dan Griset SCAG Staff 04 30 Minutes  
Staff will review the scope and approach for the Water Chapter of the RCP and lead discussion on potential performance outcomes.
- 6.2 Task Force Membership Jacob Lieb SCAG Staff 30 Minutes  
The task force will discuss the potential to add members and seek better representation.
- 6.3 Regional Council Retreat Attachment Jacob Lieb SCAG Staff 30 Minutes  
Staff will review the Regional Council retreat session held on June 2, and invite discussion for next steps on policy development.



# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

## AGENDA

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### 7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Honorable  
Pam O'Connor, Chair

### 8.0 STAFF REPORT

### 9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any Committee members or staff desiring to place items on a future agenda may make such request. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.

### 10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force will be held at the SCAG offices on July 24, 2006.



# ***Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force***

***Minutes for May 22, 2006***

The following minutes are a summary of actions taken by the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force held its meeting at the Southern California Association of Governments offices in Los Angeles. There was a videoconference at the SCAG Inland Office in Riverside. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Paul Nowatka, City of Torrance. The flag salute was led by Toni Young, City of Port Hueneme.

**Committee Chair: Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica**

## **Members Present**

Bowlen, Paul  
Cook, Debbie  
Feinstein, Michael  
Miller, Mike  
Nowatka, Paul  
Young, Toni

## **Representing**

Cerritos  
Huntington Beach  
Ex-Officio  
West Covina  
Torrance  
Port Hueneme

## **Members Absent**

Aldinger, Jim  
Garcia, Lee Ann  
O'Connor, Pam  
Ovitt, Gary  
Perry, Bev  
Pettis, Greg

## **Representing**

Manhattan Beach  
Grand Terrace  
Santa Monica  
San Bernardino  
Brea  
CVAG

## **New Members**

None

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Paul Nowatka, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

### **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None offered.

### **3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

4.1 The minutes of April 24, 2006 were approved as submitted.

### **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

None

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### **6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **6.1 Air Quality Chapter**

Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG Associate Planner, initiated a discussion on the previous efforts and activities concerning the Air Quality Chapter of the RCP. Staff addressed the previously established air quality policies and resolutions to be incorporated in the chapter. The task force recommended reviewing these established policies and updating the language, where deemed necessary, to reflect current practices. Additionally, staff solicited input on chapter goals and performance outcomes. A variety of key issues and strategies were provided by the task force, including providing quantifiable measures and examining the health effects of incompatible land uses. Staff will provide additional updates to the RCP Task Force as the Air Quality Chapter is further developed.

#### **6.2 Regional Council Retreat**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, facilitated discussion regarding the Retreat. The presentation will take place on Friday, June 2. The task force indicated that it would prefer to make its presentation on Thursday, June 1 and have a credible, high profile speaker that can make the case for the need for urgent action on challenges facing the region. One suggested speaker is Robert Kauffman.

#### **6.3 Education in the RCP**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, facilitated discussion regarding the treatment of education within the plan based on staff's recommendation that a "special focus section" on education be developed such as the treatment of the public finance in the RCP.

#### **6.4 Energy Working Group Update**

Debbie Cook, task force member, and Jennifer Sarnecki, SCAG Staff, informed the group that the first Energy Working Group meeting took place on April 25 and was attended by approximately 20 participants. The next meeting will take place on May 23.

#### **6.5 Open Space Working Group/Open Space Chapter Consultant Introduction**

Jill Eggerman, SCAG Staff, informed the group that an invite list is currently being developed for the Open Space Working Group and the invitations will be going out this week. It is hoped that the first meeting of the working group will take place in June. Jill Eggerman introduced the Open Space Consultant, Jean Carr, of Jones and Stokes.

**6.6     Finance Consultant Introduction**

Joseph Alcock, SCAG Staff, introduced the financial consultant, Craig Hoshijima, Public Financial Management and their 2 subconsultants.

**7.0     CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**8.0     STAFF REPORT**

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, will consult with Chair, Pam O'Connor on changing the beginning time of the task force meetings.

**9.0     FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Vice-chair, Paul Nowatka, raised concern that the RCP Task Force is not large enough and would like to agendaize discussion of this concern at the next meeting.

**10.0   ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**11.0   ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 noon. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2006, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

# MEMO

**DATE:** June 19, 2006

**TO:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

**FROM:** Dan Griset, Project Manager, (213) 236-1895, [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov)  
Carolina Morgan, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1923, [morgan@scag.ca.gov](mailto:morgan@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Water Resources and Policy Chapter

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## SUMMARY:

Staff is in the process of developing a draft of the Water Resources and Policy Chapter for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this memo is to update the RCP Task Force on progress of the Chapter and to seek feedback on Chapter goals, performance outcomes/ indicators, and an action plan.

## BACKGROUND:

Staff has engaged the following activities and efforts in developing the Water Resources and Policy Chapter:

- **Draft Themes of Water Resources and Policy Chapter** – Staff last reported to the RCP Task Force regarding Chapter preparation on November 21, 2005. The Task Force provided comments to staff at this time. The Energy and Environment Committee was also briefed on these comments and the draft themes for the chapter. Subsequently, staff has continued work on the chapter draft and development.
  - **Current Research** – Current research has been focused on water issues affecting the region, including water quality, supplies, regulations, forecasts, stormwater and urban runoff, storage and reliability. This research is related needed for the appropriate development of performance indicators and of a potential action plan for the Chapter.
1. **Water Priorities in the SCAG Region:** Clean and reliable water in the watersheds of the SCAG region is essential to the future quality of life in our growing region. The projected growth in population and employment is certain to increase the water challenges the region will face in the coming years. Some of these challenges include the increase of stormwater and urban runoff pollution, the lack of interagency collaboration and initiatives within shared watersheds, the continuing need to import water from other watersheds, the development of green spaces within urban land use plans, the development of new and local water infrastructure systems, the expansion of water conservation efforts, and the necessary coordination of policy and resources among all levels of governments.
  2. **Chapter Goal/Outcome:** Create and support environmentally sustainable communities in which planning and policies create sound water management practices and systems that support economic vitality throughout the region.

# MEMO

As a basis for creating some measurements of progress in water resources management, staff has identified the following topics that could serve as indicators of progress. At this point, no numerical standards have been proposed. Staff invites Task Force discussion of these topics.

- Reduction in Clean Water Act 303(d) listings that indicate water impairments
- Implementation of comprehensive watershed management plans and structures
- Lowered per capita consumption of water
- Increased water reliability
- Increased habitat conservation and green space programs
- Increased use of drought-tolerant plantings and landscapes
- Lowered flood risks
- Increased open space for water infiltration and cleaning
- Reduced dependence on water imports
- Improved and expanded local water development infrastructure
- Reduced beach closures
- Increased use of tiered water rates to constrain water use

### 3. Potential Action Plan Features:

- **Local Land Use Policies.** In order to achieve environmentally sustainable communities, the Chapter can propose local land use policy and guidelines that would include:
  - Implementation of open space and green belts within new and infill developments for water cleaning and infiltration
  - Implementation of street designs that retain and infiltrate stormwater runoff (City of Downey, Village Homes in Davis, CA are examples)
  - Requirement of native and drought-tolerant landscaping
  - Incentives for water retention features such as cisterns and other small systems
- **Education and Outreach Programs**
  - Implementation of water education and outreach programs for community leaders and educators
- **Water Quality**

In order to achieve more sustainable way of attaining high-quality of water, appropriate land use and other policies need to be proposed and implemented at the watershed level. The goal of this Chapter is to suggest watershed planning as the most appropriate approach for managing water resources. This kind of planning would include the following themes:

  - Implementation of integrated watershed management plans and governance
  - Issuance of discharge permits on a watershed basis
  - Improved coordination of water quality regulations with watershed and community institutions
  - Improvement of water quality in the State Water Project
  - Reduction of salt levels in the Colorado River Aqueduct supplies



- **Water Supply, Reliability and Storage**
  - Increased water conservation and water recycling programs (i.e., desalters)
  - Increased use of groundwater storage and the development of new capacities. (This could include development and implementation of infiltration, recharge and injection technologies.)
  - Consideration of new surface water storage development and capacity
- **Advanced Water Management Techniques.** Discussion items include:
  - Continuation of ocean desalination research and development
  - Greater use of water marketing and transfers
- **Water & Energy Relation**
  - Development of new renewable energy generation in the region's water systems

#### 4. Potential Performance Outcome Categories:

- a) Use of Integrated Regional Water Management across all levels of government with the SCAG region
- b) Development of water management practices plans that mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change on water supplies and reliability
- c) Land Use policies established and other public practices developed to minimize water impairments in the SCAG region.
- d) Expansion of water conservation efforts across the SCAG region, especially with exterior uses of potable water for irrigation.

#### 5. Water Policies:

Regional policies have been adopted by the Regional Council to address current water resources and planning challenges. These range from the Council's consideration of significant regional water issues to adopted mitigation measures identified in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Reports of past Regional Transportation Plans. In general, these policies have focused on improving regional environmental quality and best management practices, cost-effective watershed pollution controls and reliable water supplies for growing urban communities. These themes will be developed in the draft of the Water Chapter.

## Overarching Water Policy

*The Creation of Sustainable Environmental Communities* - Water quality and water supply are influenced by the design elements used in planning and creating new communities. Compact development designs that reduce impervious surfaces and increase natural areas not only allow for natural runoff purification treatment, but also save stormwater for groundwater infiltration.

## Other Policies

- a) *The management of stormwater and urban runoff pollution:* Water quality regulators are issuing increasingly stringent rules to reduce local stormwater and urban runoff pollution. These regulations apply to individual jurisdictions and, by various studies, are expected to be very costly mandates for local agencies in the SCAG region. Based on SCAG's historic interest in "areawide waste treatment management planning", regional policy emphasizes the need for watershed-scale planning (a new way of describing "areawide planning") and implementation of pollution control measures. This scale of environmental management is expected to bring needed improvements on a much more cost-effective basis than from individual projects in each local jurisdiction. This same approach offers Caltrans and other regional transportation agencies new ways to reduce their runoff management costs.
- b) *Interagency collaboration and initiatives within shared watersheds:* Water supplies needed for future growth in the region depend on infrastructure and resource collaboration within each of the watersheds of the region. Too often the agencies that manage water supplies have restricted their planning and activities to only their own service areas, limiting their ability to plan more comprehensively. The same concerns apply to the need for collaboration among agencies impacted by water quality regulations within a watershed.
- c) *The development of new local water resources and infrastructure:* Because of recent state legislation, the region's future growth is now linked with water supplies. This growth, both infill and otherwise, will place new strains on the current water infrastructure. In some cases it will require retrofitting and replacing old systems; in others it will require extending systems to serve new customers. This infrastructure challenge ranges from system plumbing to water management practices and flexibility.
- d) *The expansion of current water conservation programs:* Water conservation is an indispensable element in the ability of our growing region to achieve needed water reliability. There is a consumption parallel between agricultural water use in the state and in residential landscape irrigation: agriculture consumes about 80 percent of the state's water supply and residential landscape irrigation consumes about 80 percent of the household water supply. New irrigation practices and technology can reduce this outside use, along with changes in plant selection that work well with native, drought-tolerant conditions. Installation of water-saving devices and appliances in new and existing residences is another important conservation opportunity.
- e) *The on-going availability of imported supplemental water supplies:* Imported water supplies are increasingly constrained by competing claims and environmental considerations. These concerns raise the importance of the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, the water supply impacts from habitat and other ecological activities throughout the state and other complex management and planning issues related to the Colorado River.

- f) *The increased use of water markets and transfers:* The development of markets for the transfer of water between different basins is an important factor for improving the region's water reliability and for improving water quality in the region's water supplies. The ability of water agencies in the region to acquire surplus water from other areas encourages the development of more ambitious groundwater storage programs and makes possible the advantages of conjunctive water use.
- g) *The development of improved water treatment technologies:* Current water treatment technologies are chemical and energy-intensive. Along with pollution source controls and natural treatment systems, new technological development needs to be encouraged that reduces the heavy reliance on these factors and minimizes by-products that impair the resulting water supplies. New treatment breakthroughs can also contribute to needed increases in water reclamation and reuse throughout the region, especially in the management and use of groundwater basins.
- h) *The increased coordination of policy and resources among all levels of government:* With a flexible water policy and resources infrastructure, comprehensive watershed-scale solutions and creative regional governance, water supply and water quality challenges can be met. Cost considerations are always important in meeting these challenges, but policy and program coordination can forge influential coalitions, reduce costs and improve the potentials for success.